Technical update
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We believe that cities are full of people with talents and potential that often go unseen and unrecognised.

Based on research in Brighton, Manchester and Plymouth RSA and Digitalme have devised a new way to connect people with opportunities at scale across our cities, unlocking untapped potential for all individuals, employers and communities.
A new model which engages leadership at a city level, connects existing networks of employers, formal and non-formal education, and a technology platform that uses data from these providers to create new pathways to more inclusive employment.
The key elements of the Cities of Learning initiative

- Badge Issuing platform
- Pathways tool
- Learning spine
- Online & offline resources
A variety of formal & informal local learning activities that learners can choose to engage with:

Destinations:
- Education
- Enterprise
- Employment
- Civic Engagement
Cities of learning platform overview

BADGING A CITY

ISSUING BADGES

PRESENTING PATHWAYS

CITYWIDE DATA INSIGHTS
The journey so far

2013
The Cities of Learning movement begins in the US, galvanising a network of US cities.

2014-15
Digitalme and Artforms test place-based pathways with Open Badges in Leeds.

2015
RSA launches New Digital Learning Age, recommending that the UK explore piloting a Cities of Learning.

2016
London Event RSA partners with Digitalme.

2017
Cities of Learning Summit at RSA.

2018
Evaluation and transition to prepare for pilots Jan 2019.

2019
Pilots begin

Design and prototyping of CofL Brighton, Manchester, Plymouth supported by FELT, City & Guilds Group and Ufi Charitable Trust.

Our journey has been funded by City & Guilds Group, FELT, UFI & Esmee Fairbairn.
CITIES
• A blueprint to drive inclusive growth – a tool to measure impact
• Maximise the potential of our people through recognising existing place-based learning
• A more engaged business and civic community – improved relationships
• Data and insight into the skills needs of the city – informed policy making (and funding allocation)

INDIVIDUALS
• Reduced barriers to learning – better access to opportunities
• Self-confidence and motivation – more productive and healthier individuals
• Improved social mobility

EMPLOYERS & PROVIDERS
• Access to more diverse pools of talent
• An open digital architecture - harness the creativity of local tech community
• Influence on city-level policy making
• Better connectivity – opportunity to learn from other businesses and to collaborate